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ECONOMIC DEFENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
East-West Trade Questions in Parliament

Attached for your information are excerpts from Hansard on East-West trade questions raised recently in Parliament. These excerpts have been provided by the American Embassy in London.

Irving I. Kramer
Executive Secretary

Distribution:

ED List Parts I thru VI

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-1-

Oral Answer, Nov. 12, 1957

Trade With Albania

3. Mr. Turner asked the President of the Board of Trade if he will supply details of imports from Albania and exports from the United Kingdom to Albania during the past three years.

Sir D. Eccles: Trade with Albania is very small. With permission, I will circulate details in the OFFICIAL REPORT.

Following are the details:

| | £'000 | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|------|------|
| | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
| Imports: | | | |
| Chromium ore ... | — | — | 13.2 |
| Total ... | — | — | 13.2 |
| Exports: | | | |
| Cotton waste ... | 0.8 | — | — |
| Pneumatic tyres | 1.8 | — | — |
| Machinery other than electric | — | — | 0.6 |
| Scientific instruments | 0.7 | 0.3 | neg. |
| Other goods ... | 0.1 | 0.8 | 1.6 |
| Total ... | 3.4 | 1.1 | 2.2 |
| Re-exports ... | — | — | — |

Written Answer
Nov. 12, 1957

EXPORTS TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

97. Mr. Jay asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will now review the strategic restrictions on United Kingdom exports to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other Communist countries.

Mr. Ian Harvey: The strategic controls on trade with the Soviet Union and other Communist countries are kept under continuous review by Her Majesty's Government in conjunction with their partners and allies in the Consultative Group. These controls are adjusted from time to time by mutual agreement as circumstances require.

Oral Answer, Dec. 12
1957

Trade with China (Civil Aircraft)

13/12
19. Mr. Collins asked the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware that the Chinese Trade Mission inquired into the possibility of purchasing civilian aeroplanes of British manufacture; what inquiries he has received regarding the sale of such aircraft to China; and, in view of the present run down in the aircraft industry, if he will remove existing restrictions on the sale of new and second-hand aeroplanes.

Sir D. Eccles: Yes, Sir; and I know that the British civil aircraft industry would like to sell to China. Any exception to the present embargo, however, would have to be cleared internationally in the Paris Consultative Group. I cannot yet say whether we shall think it right to put any such proposal to our Allies.

Dec. 12, cont.

Mr. Collins: In his further deliberations on this subject, will the right hon. Gentleman bear in mind that Far Eastern airlines are not equipped solely with Russian planes, and so other countries must be supplying them? If B.E.A. wants to sell some Elizabethans, why should it be frustrated? Will the right hon. Gentleman use his utmost endeavours to ensure that this country's aircraft industry is placed at least on terms of equality with the aircraft industries of other countries?

Sir D. Eccles: I am very anxious to do so, but we shall have to discuss this matter with our Allies.

Mr. Durdale: I understood the Minister to say that he would not put forward proposals. Will he at least promise that he will put forward proposals although it is realised that they have to be discussed, considered and agreed upon finally with other countries?

Sir D. Eccles: It depends on whether it is thought that there are possibilities of using the aircraft for military purposes.

Mr. Jay: Can there really be any danger in selling second-hand civilian aircraft to China at present?

Oral Answer, Jan. 27,
1958

CHINA**Trade**

27. Mr. Collins asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will review the present restrictions on trade with China; and if, in particular, he will lift the present restrictions on the sale of new and second-hand civilian aeroplanes.

Mr. Ian Harvey: I would refer the hon. Member to the reply which I gave to the right hon. Member for Battersea, North (Mr. Jay) on 12th November, 1957.

As to the second part of the Question, I have nothing to add to the reply which my right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade gave to the hon. Member on 12th December, 1957.

Mr. Collins: Is the Joint Under-Secretary aware that the reply from the President of the Board of Trade, whilst admitting the charge, did not promise to do anything about it? Is he further aware that other N.A.T.O. countries are still selling prohibited goods to China and to other Communist countries? Does he not think it is time that he looked into the matter and took positive steps to see that British traders are no longer suffering these handicaps as compared with our foreign competitors?

Mr. Harvey: I do not admit that there is any question of a charge arising out of this. As I have already said, this is a question that is regularly reviewed, and that is the position at the moment.

Oral Answer

Jan. 28, 1958

Aircraft Exports (Embargo List)

2. Mr. Willey asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he will reconsider the position of aircraft in relation to the embargo list of exports.

Sir D. Eccles: I have nothing to add to the reply which I gave to the hon. Member for Shorelitch and Finsbury (Mr. Collins) on 12th December.

Mr. Willey: In view of the difficulties of the aircraft industry and in view of the changed circumstances in the use of aircraft for military purposes, will the right hon. Gentleman keep this matter under lively review?

Sir D. Eccles: Yes, Sir.

Written Answers,
Jan. 23, 1958

Trade with China

20. Mr. Ellis Smith asked the President of the Board of Trade why our exports to China have not increased at least as greatly as to other countries; what are the prospects; and what action is being taken to increase our exports to China.

Sir D. Eccles: Our exports and re-exports to China in 1957 were 13 per cent. greater than in 1956. The corresponding percentage for all destinations was 4.2 per cent. On the last part of the Question, I would refer the hon. Member to the remarks made by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade in the Adjournment debate on 3rd December last. The prospects for an increase in our exports to China appear quite good.

Exports to Communist Countries

Miss Burton asked the President of the Board of Trade what alterations have been made during the past six months to the list of strategic goods and materials banned for export to Communist countries; and if he will publish the current list in the OFFICIAL REPORT.

Sir D. Eccles: Apart from minor technical amendments to the definitions of measuring apparatus, attenuators and high speed cameras already under control, the only changes have been to include certain types of printed circuit equipment, centrifugal testing apparatus and servomechanisms which have a military application. The list of embargoed goods was published in the Board of Trade Journal on the 7th June, 1957, and amendments were issued in the Journal on the 2nd August, 1957, and 3rd January, 1958. I am sending copies to the hon. Lady.

Leipzig Fair

Mr. Lewis asked the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware that the German Democratic Republic are to hold their annual trade fair at Leipzig in March; and whether he will arrange to have representatives from his Department in attendance.

Sir D. Eccles: Provided the Soviet authorities will grant the necessary visas, officials for British staffs in Germany will attend the Fair in March as they did last year, but in an informal capacity, since Her Majesty's Government do not recognise the German authorities in the Soviet Zone.